I claim:

1.   A method of determining a consequent step within a multi-step procedure comprising the steps of:

identifying a context within the procedure;

identifying a component usable in the procedure; and

determining the consequent step within the procedure based on the identity of the component and the context.

2.   . The method of claim 1 wherein the context is a particular step within the procedure.

3.   The method of claim 1 that includes the step of identifying a particular location and wherein the determining step is based on the location, the identity of the component, and the context.

4.   The method of claim 1 that includes the step of displaying a representation related to the consequent step on a display unit.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the component is a multipart component capable of self-identifying the component's composite parts.

6.   The method of claim 5 wherein the multipart component is a tool with an attached device wherein the tool can identify the attached device.

7.   The method of claim 7 wherein the multipart component is a tool with an attached device wherein the attached device separately identifiable.

8.   The method of claim 3 wherein the identification of a particular location is done using a navigation system.

9.   The method of claim 1 that includes the step of configuring the consequent step with a parameter of the component.

10.   The method of claim 1 wherein the consequent step is a warning that the component is inappropriate for the context.

11.   The method of claim 1 wherein the consequent step includes controlling a piece of auxiliary apparatus.

12.   The method of claim 1 that includes the step of identifying an additional component and wherein the determination of the consequent step is based on the identity of the component, the identity of the additional component, and the context.

13.   The method of claim 1 that includes the additional step of moving to the determined consequent step.

14.   The method of claim 1 wherein the procedure is a surgical procedure.

15.   The method of claim 1 that includes a database of user preferences and wherein the determining step is based on the database, the identity of the component, and the context.

16.   A system to determine a consequent step within a multi-step procedure comprising:

a first circuit that identifies a context within the procedure;

a second circuit that identifies a component usable in the procedure; and

5   a third circuit that determines the consequent step within the procedure based on the identity of the component and the context

17.   The system of claim 16 wherein the context is a particular step within the procedure.

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18.   The system of claim 16 that includes a fourth circuit to identify a particular location and wherein the third circuit determines the consequent step based on the location, the identity of the component, and the context.

15   19.   The system of claim 16 that includes a display unit that displays a representation related to the consequent step.

20.   The system of claim 16 wherein the component is a multipart component capable of self-identifying the component's composite parts.

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21.   The system of claim 20 wherein the multipart component is a tool with an attached device wherein the tool can identify the attached device.

22.   The system of claim 20 wherein the multipart component is a tool with an
25   attached device wherein the attached device separately identifiable.

23.   The system of claim 18 wherein the fourth circuit is incorporated within a navigation system.

24.   The system of claim 16 that includes a fifth circuit to configure the consequent step with a parameter of the component.

25.   The system of claim 16 wherein the consequent step is a warning that the component is inappropriate for the context.

26.   The system of claim 16 wherein the consequent step includes controlling a piece of auxiliary apparatus.

27.   The system of claim 16 that includes a sixth circuit to identify an additional component and wherein the third circuit determines the consequent step based on the identity of the component, the identity of the additional component, and the context.

28.   The system of claim 16 that includes a sixth circuit to move to the determined consequent step.

29.   The system of claim 16 wherein the procedure is a surgical procedure.

30.   The system of claim 16 that includes a database of user preferences and wherein the third circuit determines the consequent step based on the database, the identity of the component, and the context.